



Project: Delta Plan Amendments, Delta Stewardship Council
Date Issued: March 16, 2017

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DELTA PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) will prepare a program environmental impact report (Program EIR or EIR) for proposed amendments to the Delta Plan (Proposed Project), and will hold one public scoping meeting to receive comments on the scope of the EIR, as detailed below. Consistent with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15206, the Proposed Project is considered a project of statewide, regional, or areawide significance. The Council, acting as the Lead Agency, determined that the Proposed Project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts, and that an EIR is required.

This NOP has been prepared for the Proposed Project's Program EIR, in compliance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Council is soliciting comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The Council will prepare the EIR to address the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project at a program level, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168.

Members of the public and public agencies are invited to provide comments in writing as to the scope and content of the EIR. For public agencies receiving this notice, the Council needs to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project, its location, and potential environmental effects are described below.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than the close of the 30-day Notice of Preparation (NOP) review period at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2017. If you submit comments on the scope of the EIR, you will automatically be added to the distribution list for future notices and information about the environmental review process for the Proposed Project. If you do not wish to submit comments on the scope of the EIR, but would like to be added to the mailing list, you can submit your contact information, including email address, with a request to be added to the mailing list.

Please send your comments or your request to be added to the mailing list to:

Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-5511
Email address: deltaplanNOP@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Please use “Delta Plan Amendments EIR” as the subject. Please include the name of a contact person for your agency. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be available to the public.

Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting is scheduled at the following date, time, and place:

Friday, March 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel
Gardenia Room
1230 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

The public scoping meeting will begin with a brief overview presentation of the Delta Plan Amendments process followed by receipt of public comments. The meeting will be available as a live webcast at www.deltacouncil.ca.gov.

A copy of this NOP and other information about the Proposed Project are available online at www.deltacouncil.ca.gov.

INTRODUCTION

In November 2009, the California Legislature enacted SBX7 1, one of several bills passed at that time related to water supply reliability, ecosystem health, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This new law became effective on February 3, 2010. Division 35 of this legislation, also known as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act, or Act), requires the development of a legally enforceable, comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Delta, referred to as the Delta Plan. In 2013, the Council adopted the Delta Plan. Several components of the Delta Plan require revisions due to changes in circumstances and conditions in the Delta. These proposed amendments to the Delta Plan comprise the Proposed Project.

The proposed amendments involve three Delta Plan components: Delta Levee Investment and Risk Reduction Strategy; Delta Conveyance, Storage, and Operation; and Performance Measures. The potential environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed amendments could originate from actions taken to be consistent or comply with the proposed amendments, referred to herein as “compliance responses” (i.e., actions taken by the Council or other public agencies to be consistent

or comply with the amendments that result in new or modified facilities, operations, or other actions that may cause changes to the physical environment).

PURPOSE OF THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Pursuant to CEQA, the Council is initiating preparation of an EIR for the proposed Delta Plan Amendments. This NOP has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of CEQA to notify the public, responsible agencies, trustee agencies, the state Office of Planning and Research, involved federal agencies, and Tribes that the Council intends to prepare an EIR for this project and to solicit guidance from the public and those agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. The NOP is an important step in initiating the Scoping Process to determine the range of issues to be addressed in the EIR. The objectives of the Scoping Process are:

- Provide an opportunity for public and agency involvement in preparation of the EIR,
- Help identify the scope of issues and potential impacts that must be discussed in the EIR to adequately and accurately address potential impacts of the proposed project, and
- Help identify a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project.

During development of the EIR, the Council will consult with responsible and trustee agencies of the State of California. A “responsible agency” is a public agency, other than the lead agency, that has the responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. A “trustee agency” means a state agency that has jurisdiction by law over natural resources that are held in trust for the people of the State of California and that could potentially be affected by implementation of the Delta Plan Amendments. Pursuant to Section 21080.4(a) of the Public Resources Code, responsible and trustee agencies and involved federal agencies are requested to provide, in writing, the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. Responsible, trustee, and federal agencies are also requested to identify potential regulatory policies that should be considered in the baseline for the EIR.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

As required by the Delta Reform Act, the Council created the Delta Plan, a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Delta. Adopted by the Council in 2013, the Delta Plan created new regulatory policies and recommendations to further the “coequal goals” for the Delta in Water Code Section 85054:

“Coequal goals’ means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the

unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.”

When it was adopted in 2013, the Delta Plan anticipated the need for periodic reviews and updates in response to changing circumstances and conditions in the Delta in addition to the Water Code Section 85300(c) requirement that the Council review the entire Delta Plan no less than once every five years and revise it as appropriate. Since 2013, the Council has amended the Delta Plan to adopt new and refined performance measures (February 2016) and to exempt single-year water transfers from consideration as covered actions (September 2016).

Need for the Delta Plan Amendments

As discussed in greater detail below, the Proposed Project consists of amendments to the Delta Plan to address the following:

- Pursuant to Water Code Sections 85305 and 85306, updated and new recommendations, and amendment of existing Delta Plan policy RR P1 (which is an expressly interim regulatory policy). (Such revisions are referred to herein as the “Delta Levee Investment and Risk Reduction Strategy”.)
- Pursuant to Water Code Section 85304, promotion of options for new and improved infrastructure relating to Delta water conveyance, storage, and the operation of both to achieve the coequal goals.
- Pursuant to Water Code Sections 85211 and 85308, subds. (b)-(d), proposed revisions to performance measures to enable the Council to track progress in meeting the objectives of the Delta Plan.

PROJECT LOCATION - PLANNING AREA

The location of the Proposed Project is the planning area to be considered in the Program EIR as defined by the purposes and uses of the Delta Plan, which are described in the Act. The primary planning area is defined as the legal boundaries of the Delta and the Suisun Marsh that are defined in Water Code Section 85058. The extended planning area is defined by the watersheds that contribute flows to the Delta (including areas within the Delta watershed upstream of the Delta, and the Trinity River watershed) and areas of California with places of use receiving water from or conveyed through the Delta. The primary and extended planning areas are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Planning Area for Delta Plan Amendments Environmental Impact Report

Primary Planning Area – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh

Water Code Section 85300(a) states “The Delta Plan shall include subgoals and strategies to assist in guiding state and local agency actions related to the Delta.” One of the uses of these strategies will be for state or local public agencies that propose to undertake a covered action to determine if the covered action is consistent with the Delta Plan. The term “covered action” is defined in Water Code Section 85057.5(a) generally as “a plan, program, or project as defined pursuant to Water Code Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code that...[w]ill occur, in whole or in part, within the boundaries of the Delta or Suisun Marsh.” The Act defines the term “Delta” in Water Code Section 85058, which refers to “the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as defined in [Water Code] Section 12220, and the Suisun Marsh, as defined in Section 29101 of the Public Resources Code.”

The Delta, for purposes of the Delta Plan Amendments Program EIR, consists of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Suisun Marsh, consistent with Water Code Section 85058. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta lies roughly between the cities of Sacramento, Stockton, Tracy, and Antioch. It extends approximately 24 miles east to west and 48 miles north to south, and includes parts of five counties (Sacramento, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Solano, and Yolo). The Suisun Marsh is located south of Fairfield and includes land adjacent to Carquinez Strait, Grizzly Bay, Suisun Bay, and Honker Bay. Figure 1 shows the boundaries of the Delta, including both the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Extended Planning Area - Delta Watershed, Tributaries to the Delta Watershed and, Areas that Use water from or conveyed through the Delta

The extended planning area will extend outside of the Delta and Suisun Marsh, as needed to include areas that would be affected by implementation of the Delta Plan. The Act includes several provisions that require the Delta Plan to address issues outside of the Delta, including Sections 85020, 85302(b), 85303, 85304, and 85307(a). Section 85020(d) states that it is the policy of the State of California is to “Promote statewide water conservation, water use efficiency, and sustainable water use.” Section 85302(b) states “The geographic scope of the ecosystem restoration projects and programs identified in the Delta Plan shall be the Delta, except that the Delta Plan may include recommended ecosystem projects outside the Delta that will contribute to achievement of the coequal goals.” Sections 85303, 85304, and 85307(a) address areas that may extend outside of the Delta with respect to water resources management, including “The Delta Plan shall promote statewide water conservation, water use efficiency, and sustainable use of water” (Section 85303), and “The Delta Plan shall promote options for new and improved infrastructure relating to the water conveyance in the Delta, storage systems, and for the operation of both to achieve the coequal goals” (Section 85304). Section 85307(a) states that “The Delta Plan may identify actions to be taken outside of the Delta, if those actions are determined to significantly reduce flood risks in the Delta.”

As shown in Figure 1 of this NOP, the Delta Watershed area includes a large portion of California north of Fresno and the San Joaquin River. This area includes more than two dozen counties, and extends as far north as the California-Oregon border in Modoc County.

The Extended Planning Area outside the Delta Watershed Area includes areas extending from Napa County south to San Benito County, and the western half of California south of Fresno. This area extends along the coast from San Luis Obispo south to the California-Mexico border.

STUDY PERIOD

The study period for the analysis in the Program EIR is defined by the purposes and uses of the Delta Plan. Water Code Section 85302(e)(1) requires the Council to “Restore large areas of interconnected habitats within the Delta and its watershed by 2100.” To provide the long-term perspective and accommodate the quantifiable goals of the Delta Plan, the EIR for the Proposed Project will evaluate conditions with and without the project alternatives through the Year 2100.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, an NOP is required to describe the proposed project and its location. The project to be analyzed in the Delta Plan Amendments Program EIR consists of proposed amendments to three portions of the Delta Plan, as described below.

Delta Levees Investment and Risk Reduction Strategy

The Council proposes to amend the Delta Plan to promote strategic levee investments that attempt to reduce risks to people, property, and State interests in the Delta (Water Code Section 85305) and recommend priorities for State investment in levee operation, maintenance, and improvements in the Delta (Water Code Section 85306). Among the proposed revisions is an amendment to interim Delta Plan policy RR P1 (Prioritization of State Investments in Delta Levees and Risk Reduction). Policy RR P1 was expressly written to be an interim policy concerning Delta levee investment strategy. The proposed amendments will be more specific than the existing interim policy in terms of where in the Delta the State should prioritize its levee investments and, to some degree, what types of levee improvements reflect the State’s priorities in those areas. The amendments for prioritization of State investments in Delta levees and risk reduction are proposed to include:

- A. Fund levee maintenance. Funding for maintenance of levees shall continue to be available throughout the Delta where authorized by Water Code Section 12980 et seq.

B. Prioritize levee improvements. The priorities shown in Figure 2 would guide State discretionary investments in the improvement and major rehabilitation of Delta levees. As DWR selects levee improvement projects for funding through its levee funding programs, it should fund projects at the very-high priority islands and tracts, subject to its consideration of the benefits, costs, engineering considerations, and other factors, before approving projects at high priority or other priority islands and tracts. If available funds are sufficient to fully fund levee improvements at the very-high priority islands and tracts, then funds for improvements or major rehabilitation of levees on high priority islands and tracts may be provided, and after those projects have been fully funded, then projects at other priority islands and tracts may be funded. Nothing in the proposed amendment would establish or otherwise change existing levee standards.

Actions taken by other public agencies consistent with the proposed Delta Levee Investment and Risk Reduction Strategy amendments could include construction of new levees, improvement of existing levees, or revised maintenance operations for existing levees. The Program EIR will consider the environmental impacts of reasonably foreseeable projects that could be undertaken consistent with these amendments.

C. Risk Reduction Recommendations. The Council also proposes to amend the Delta Plan to refine certain risk reduction recommendations, and include new risk reduction recommendations. The proposed recommendations for refinement or inclusion are:

- Continue to prepare for Delta flood emergencies;
- Modernize levee information management;
- Update flood management funding strategies;
- Improve residential flood protection;
- Manage rural floodplains to avoid increasing flood risk;
- Protect and expand floodways, floodplains and bypasses;
- Renew assurances of federal assistance for post disaster response; and
- Limit State liability.

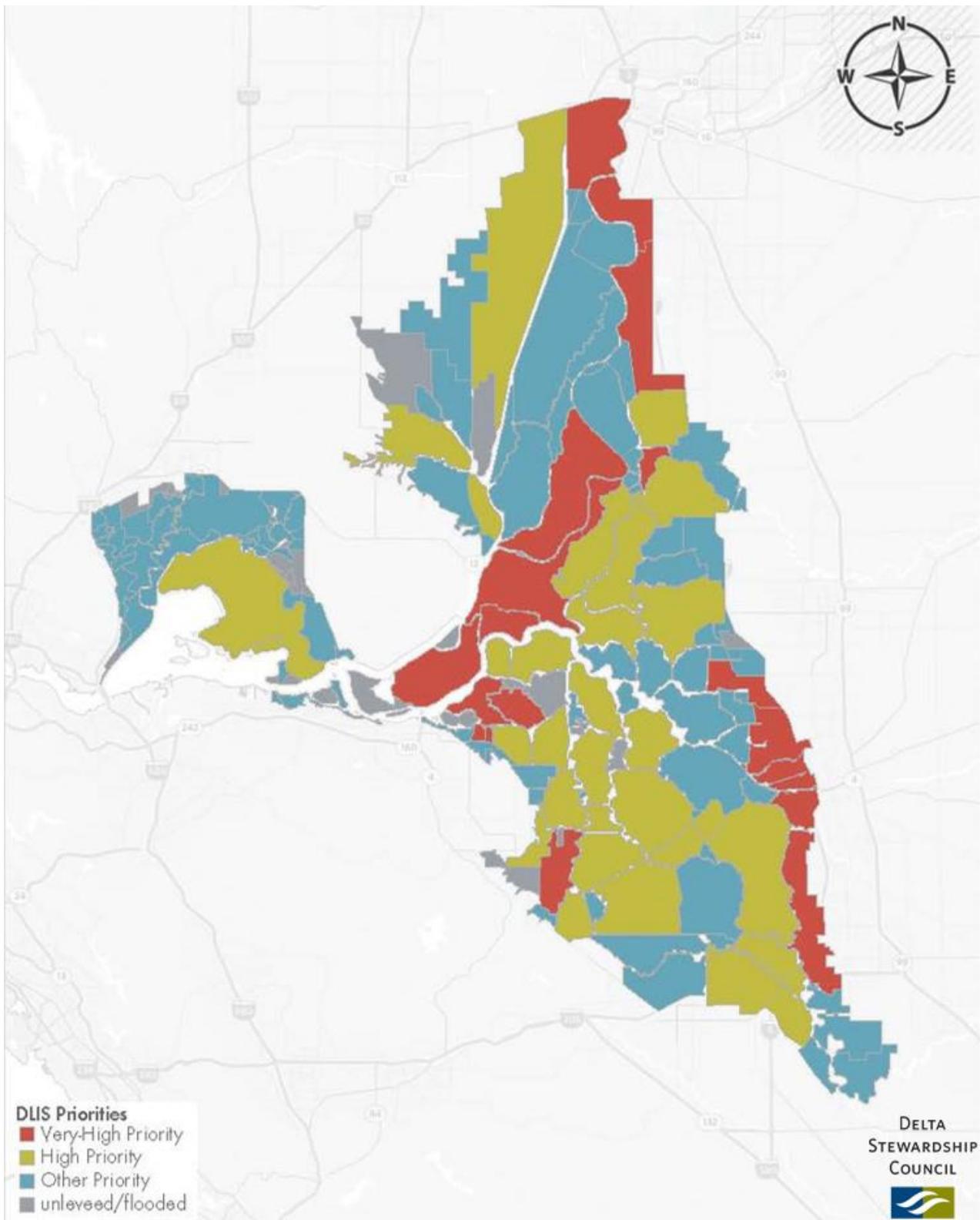


Figure 2. Delta Levees Investment Priorities

Delta Conveyance, Storage, and Operation

To promote improved conveyance options in the Delta, Delta Plan recommendation WR R12 recommends that State and federal agencies complete the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) consistent with the provisions of the Delta Reform Act, and receive incidental take permits by December 31, 2014. Had that recommendation been fulfilled, the BDCP's conveyance provisions would have been incorporated into the Delta Plan pursuant to Water Code Section 85320. Additionally, Appendix A of the Delta Plan states that the issue of conveyance would be revisited by the Council if the BDCP process were not completed by January 1, 2016.

In 2015, the Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation (i.e., the lead agencies) announced a new preferred alternative to BDCP ("California WaterFix"), which would not involve completing the BDCP as a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), but instead would construct new water conveyance facilities in the Delta. A parallel effort called California EcoRestore was also proposed to accelerate implementation of habitat restoration actions in the Delta.

In response to the lead agencies' change from BDCP to proposing WaterFix instead, and in accordance with Appendix A of the Delta Plan, the Council renewed its efforts to review the issues of conveyance, storage and the operations of both pursuant to Water Code section 85304. In November 2015, the Council adopted "19 Principles for Water Conveyance in the Delta, Storage Systems, and for the Operation of Both to Achieve the Coequal Goals" (19 Principles) to guide its development of Delta Plan amendments.

Guided by Water Code Section 85304, the Delta Plan, and the 19 Principles, the Council now proposes to amend the Delta Plan to promote recommended options for design, implementation and operation of the following to achieve the coequal goals: i) new and improved water conveyance infrastructure, and ii) new or expanded water storage. The proposed amendments would also incorporate best available science and implement an adaptive management principles outlined in the Delta Plan. Below is a summary of the promoted recommendations:

- Options for New and Improved Water Conveyance and Diversion Infrastructure in the Delta, including the following:
 - New intakes and diversions and conveyance facilities in the North Delta to improve the quality and reliability of deliveries while protecting fisheries and other ecosystem needs;
 - Conveyance improvements that allow use of multiple Delta intakes to increase operational flexibility and reduce fish entrainment;
 - Improved through-Delta conveyance, as well as operable gates or barriers in the south Delta;
 - Modification of the conveyance capacity or hydraulic characteristics of existing Delta waterways in a manner that provides multiple benefits (e.g., water supply and ecosystem).

- Options for New or Expanded Water Storage, including the following:
 - Within the Delta watershed, new or expanded offstream or onstream surface water storage to improve reliability, operational flexibility, and resiliency;
 - Within the Delta export area, including the San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast region, and Southern California, new or expanded water storage to improve resiliency and management of local supplies while reducing reliance on the Delta;
 - New or expanded groundwater storage to promote recharge, conjunctive management, banking and exchange, and sustainable groundwater management;
 - Guidance for cities and counties to incorporate groundwater recharge into land-use planning and zoning.

- Options to Improve the Operation of Storage and Conveyance Facilities, including the following:
 - Development of specific targets and objectives for coordinated operation of storage and conveyance facilities within the Delta watershed that address (1) protection for and enhancements to the Delta ecosystem, and (2) avoidance or mitigation of adverse effects on in-Delta recreation and water quality;
 - State Water Resources Control Board update to the Bay-Delta Plan to support achievement of applicable Delta Plan performance measures;
 - Require a process and operations plan for meeting applicable water quality objectives during extended drought conditions;
 - Recommendations for new, and operations of, improved conveyance and diversion facilities outside of the Delta which have effects on the Delta and its ecosystem;
 - Recommend incorporation of applicable Delta Plan performance measures in efforts to improve water operations monitoring data management and data transparency.

Compliance responses to the proposed water conveyance, storage, and operations amendment may be implemented by a variety of public agencies. The compliance responses could include construction of new or improved water conveyance infrastructure, new or expanded water storage projects, or changes to the operation of water storage and conveyance facilities. The Program EIR will consider the environmental impacts of reasonably foreseeable projects that could be undertaken in compliance with this amendment.

Performance Measures

Performance measures enable the Council to track progress in meeting the objectives of the Delta Plan. The Council proposes to amend Appendix E of the Delta Plan to refine the output and outcome performance measures. The performance measures contain quantified or otherwise measurable targets to be used as indicators of whether specific actions are producing expected results.

The amended Delta Plan will revise performance measure targets, metrics, and baseline conditions associated with:

- Providing a More Reliable Water Supply for California – Including topics such as: urban water conservation, storm water runoff, reduced reliance on Delta water supplies, agricultural and groundwater management, and timing of Delta exports.
- Protecting, Restoring and Enhancing the Delta Ecosystem – Including topics such as: natural functional flows, salmonid and native species populations, habitat restoration, nonnative species management, and hatcheries and harvest management.
- Protecting and Enhancing the Unique Cultural, Recreational, Natural Resource and Agricultural Values of the California Delta as an Evolving Place – Including topics such as: protection of Delta lands and communities, and Delta agriculture, recreation, and tourism.
- Improving Water Quality to Protect Human Health and the Environment – Including topics such as: water quality standards and monitoring, algal blooms and nonnative nuisance aquatic plants, and construction of the North Bay Aqueduct Alternate Intake Project to improve the quality and reliability of water supplies.
- Reducing Risk to People, Property and State Interests in the Delta – Including topics such as: flood emergencies and risk reduction, and community credit points and National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.

Because the proposed refinements to the performance measures include quantified or otherwise measurable targets and metrics for compliance with the objectives and strategies of the Delta Plan, agencies could engage in actions to comply with the revised performance measures. Compliance responses could include changes in water flows, construction of new infrastructure, improvements to existing infrastructure, and changes to local regulations regarding water usage and land use. The Program EIR will consider the environmental impacts of reasonably foreseeable projects that could be undertaken in compliance with this amendment.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE DELTA PLAN AMENDMENTS

In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15126.6), the EIR will describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project that are capable of meeting most of the basic objectives of the project, and that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. The EIR will also identify any alternatives that were considered by the lead agency but rejected as infeasible, and briefly explain the

reasons why. The EIR will provide an analysis of the No-Project Alternative and will also identify the environmentally superior alternative.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Council has determined that an EIR is required for the Delta Plan Amendments. The EIR will identify the significant environmental effects (“impacts”) of the Proposed Project and alternatives in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines. Mitigation measures or approaches to future mitigation programs will be described to reduce significant impacts or potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

This EIR will be a Program EIR that examines the potential significant environmental effects of the proposed Delta Plan Amendments. The Council is not proposing, nor would the proposed Delta Plan Amendments require, specific projects at specific locations. While the Program EIR will review the potential physical environmental effects of potential types and locations of reasonably foreseeable compliance responses, it will not provide project-level environmental review for any specific projects.

The Delta Plan Amendments Program EIR will consider all resource areas identified in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Environmental Checklist in the evaluation of environmental effects. The EIR will provide a program-level evaluation of the potential impacts, addressing potential adverse effects at both the local and regional levels. The EIR will include evaluation of cumulative effects of the Delta Plan Amendments. The EIR will describe thresholds of significance to determine the significance of potential impacts, and will identify program-level mitigation measures, including performance-based approaches or policies. Due to the wide range of compliance response actions that could take place as part of implementing the Delta Plan Amendments, it is anticipated that significant effects could occur for the resources summarized below.

- **Aesthetics:** Potential effects on visual resources include potential changes to the Delta landscape resulting from reasonably foreseeable new or modified levee and water conveyance and supply facilities. The construction and operation of new or modified facilities could result in new sources of light and glare, or could change the existing visual character of the Planning Area.
- **Agricultural Resources:** Potential impacts on agricultural resources could include temporary and permanent loss of agricultural land, interference with agricultural operations from new or modified levee or water conveyance or storage facilities, and changes in water operations affecting agricultural water supply.
- **Air Quality:** Potential air quality impacts would be associated primarily with construction activities, although effects could also result from new or increased demand for energy (e.g., water pumps) caused by changes in operations.
- **Biological Resources:** Potential effects on aquatic and terrestrial biological resources, such as those that reside in or migrate through the Delta and other

geographic areas, could result from construction of new or expanded facilities, improvements to existing facilities, and operations (e.g., changes in water flows or water storage). The EIR will consider effects that could be beneficial to some organisms and adverse to others.

The EIR will describe unique and special biological resources in the Delta; habitat that could occur in areas outside of the Delta that could be affected by the Delta Plan Amendments; listed and special-status species in the Delta; wetland and grasslands in the Delta; existing and planned conservation areas within the Delta; and general descriptions of listed species in areas outside of the Delta and the impacts to these resources due to the Proposed Project.

- **Climate Change:** Potential effects related to climate change could include vulnerability to sea-level rise and flooding and ecological changes in the Planning Area over time. The analysis will evaluate how climate change could risk exacerbating exposure to climate change consequences in the Planning Area. Also, the Proposed Project could affect climate change-influenced conditions in the Planning Area, such as improved resilience/climate risk reduction.
- **Cultural Resources:** Potential effects on unique archaeological resources, unique paleontological resources, unique geologic features, and historical resources occurring from ground disturbance for new, modified, or expanded facilities. The EIR will identify significant cultural resources within the Delta, and the potential for resources in areas outside of the Delta that could be affected by the Delta Plan Amendments.
- **Energy Use, Generation, and Efficiency:** Potential for wasteful or inefficient use of energy that could occur from new or modified facilities or operational changes and may lead to significant environmental effects. Energy consumption could be related to construction of reasonably foreseeable facilities needed for compliance with the amendments and for potential changes in operations. Elements of the Proposed Project may generate energy, such as from hydroelectric power facilities.
- **Geology, Soils, and Seismicity:** Potential effects on geology, soils, and seismicity that could occur as a result of new or modified facilities. Potential activities that could implicate geology, soils, and seismicity include construction, changes to erosion risk, and improvements, such as programs to reverse subsidence.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Potential for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that may contribute to the cumulative effect of climate change. Construction activities would generate GHG emissions from off-road equipment and trucks traveling to and from work sites. Operational activities may also include stationary sources of GHG emissions and hydropower facilities may offset GHG emissions from fossil-fuel electric power generation elsewhere.
- **Growth Inducement Potential:** By providing a more reliable water supply, the Proposed Project could potentially eliminate barriers to future growth. If any growth

inducement potential is identified as a result of the proposed Delta Plan Amendments, the EIR will address the potential secondary effects of such growth.

- **Hydrology and Water Quality:** Potential effects on hydrology and water quality from new or modified facilities or operational changes. Potential effects could include changes in flow patterns in the Delta and associated effects related to flood risk or geomorphic and erosion pattern changes.
- **Land Use and Planning:** Potential land use and planning effects include conflicts with adopted land use or resource management plans and policies, and changes to the Delta as an evolving place.
- **Mineral Resources:** Potential effects could include use of land that would preclude future mineral resource recovery, as well as policies that could limit existing mining operations.
- **Noise:** Potential noise effects include noise and vibration from construction equipment, as well as onsite noise from new, expanded, or improved facilities.
- **Population, Employment, and Housing:** Potential to result in changes in population and employment or associated housing availability. The analysis will describe existing population and employment centers within the Delta and review applicable land use plans with respect to policies regarding planned areas for employment and housing within the Delta.
- **Recreation:** Potential effects on recreation could include closure or limitation of existing recreational opportunities and changes in waterways that could affect boating, angling, and other water-dependent recreation activities.
- **Transportation and Traffic:** Potential effects on transportation facilities and traffic circulation, including evaluation of evacuation routes. Potential effects could include roadway congestion and access limitations from construction vehicle traffic, and changes to roadway alignments due to new or expanded facilities.
- **Tribal Cultural Resources:** Potential effects on tribal cultural resources. The analysis will describe the Council's actions in compliance with Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52, Statutes of 2014) requiring outreach to tribes that may be traditionally or culturally affiliated with the Delta to help identify tribal cultural resources. Potential effects could result primarily from construction of new or modified facilities.
- **Utilities and Public Services:** Potential effects on local and regional utility infrastructure in the Delta, as well as the public services for Delta communities. Potential effects could include the construction or new or realigned utilities, changes in emergency access, and changes in flood risk. The analysis will also address existing utility infrastructure and the potential for utility conflicts that could result in environmental impacts, including major gas, electric, communication, drainage, and flood management facilities in the Delta.

DELTA PLAN AMENDMENTS EIR SCOPING PROCESS

Written comments from members of the public, responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and federal agencies are requested and invited to ensure that the full range of issues related to the development of the amended Delta Plan are identified. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) on Monday, April 17, 2017. Written comments should be sent to:

Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may be emailed to: deltaplanNOP@deltacouncil.ca.gov

A public scoping meeting is scheduled:

Friday, March 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel
Gardenia Room
1230 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

The scoping meeting will be available as a live webcast at www.deltacouncil.ca.gov.

The public scoping meeting will include a brief overview presentation of the Delta Plan Amendments process followed by receipt of public comments.